

# NEWS RELEASE

# THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 8, 1997

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## Deadly nuclear fallout is more proof that “Government is hazardous to your health”

*Should politicians be forced to wear warning labels, like cigarettes?*

WASHINGTON, DC — Warning: The Surgeon General has determined that the U.S. Government is hazardous to your health.

That's the grim warning the Libertarian Party wants to slap on politicians, after the federal government confessed this week that Cold War nuclear tests exposed 230,000 Americans to high levels of radioactivity — and may cause 75,000 people to develop fatal thyroid cancer.

“If it's good enough for the tobacco companies, it's good enough for the federal government,” said Steve Dasbach, chairman of the Libertarian Party. “Americans have a right to know about the health risks associated with repeated dosages of government irresponsibility.”

This week, the National Cancer Institute admitted that government nuclear tests in the 1950s and 1960s showered the lower 48 states with deadly Iodine 131 — and exposed people in five states to enough radiation to cause lethal thyroid cancer. Especially vulnerable: Children under age five, who received radiation dosages three to seven times above the average.

**Unfortunately for the millions of Americans exposed to the fallout, the U.S. government sat on the embarrassing data for 15 years, said Dasbach.**

“In 1982, Congress ordered a study into the health consequences of the Nevada nuclear tests, but the National Cancer Institute didn't issue a report until this week,” he noted. “Thousands of Americans were left to die, unaware and untreated — because politicians didn't bother to warn them that they had been radioactively poisoned by their own government.”

**Even more astonishing, said Dasbach, is the fact that no one — except for Libertarians — is calling for criminal trials for the government officials responsible for the catastrophic nuclear testing, or for the cover-up.**

“Politicians ordered these atomic tests,” he said. “Military personnel administered them. And federal bureaucrats hid the data for 15 years. Where are the demands for justice? How many people must die before politicians are held responsible for their deadly decisions?”

**“Here's a suggestion:** Find out who was responsible for exposing Americans to lethal radioactivity. Put them on trial. And make them *personally* pay reparations to their innocent victims. And in the meantime, force politicians to wear warning labels similar to what they require on cigarette packs — Warning: The U.S. Government can kill you. Because that's the real lesson of this tragedy: Government *is* hazardous to your health.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 6, 1997

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## **"Just say no" to government-subsidized dope-smoking experiment, say Libertarians**

### ***Take a weed-whacker to government's \$50,000 dopey study***

WASHINGTON, DC — Cheech and Chong, Uncle Sam wants you! That's right: The federal government is looking for a few good potheads to smoke marijuana . . . and get paid to do it.

**But the Libertarian Party — America's leading advocate for drug  
legalization — thinks it's a dopey idea.**

"When it comes to using taxpayer money to subsidize dope smoking, Libertarians just say no," said Steve Dasbach, the party's chairman. "We don't support the government paying people to smoke pot any more than we support the government throwing people in jail for doing so."

Federal health officials recently announced that they were looking for 20 volunteers — all "habitual marijuana smokers" — for a government-funded scientific study into the effects of marijuana on motor skills. The study will be conducted at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, using high-grade marijuana grown at the federal government's seven-acre "pot farm" in Oxford, Mississippi.

Like with all federal jobs, the benefits are great: Free, high-quality marijuana, \$50 per visit payments, immunity from criminal prosecution, and free cab rides to and from the laboratory. In all, the experiment will cost taxpayers more than \$50,000.

"Only the federal government could spend \$50,000 to throw a pot party," said Dasbach. "Squandering tax money this way is the ultimate reefer madness."

But all jokes aside, the experiment has a serious side, said Dasbach, because while the government is paying people to smoke marijuana, it's also spending \$16 billion this year to throw hundreds of thousands of Americans in jail for doing the exact same thing.

"Yes, it's ridiculous that the government is paying people to smoke dope. But it's *tragic* that during the four days this experiment is conducted, 6,572 Americans will be arrested for marijuana offenses," said Dasbach. According to federal figures, someone in America is arrested every 54 seconds for a marijuana offense — approximately 600,000 people a year.

Do Libertarians oppose marijuana studies? No, just *government-funded* ones, said Dasbach.

"Such research should be conducted by privately funded hospitals and scientists, not by bureaucrats addicted to wasting other people's money," said Dasbach. "That's why pork projects — or, in this case, *smoked* pork projects — like the Bowman Gray School of Medicine study should be shut down. We need to take a weed-whacker to this silly government program."

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